



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

Published by
the Rebuild Iowa Office

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>SBDCs</i>	2
<i>RIO Planning Proposal</i>	2
<i>Disaster Grant</i>	3

**Safer, Stronger,
Smarter**

www.rio.iowa.gov

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY UNVEILS FLOOD RECOVERY PROJECT

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, joined by state legislators, the public and RIO Executive Director Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, unveiled its first rebuilding project since the Flood of 2008, which devastated the museum campus.

The NCSML received \$10 million toward its recovery through the I-Jobs Fund approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor this spring. The bulk of the funds will be dedicated to construction of a new exhibition center and research library. Total rebuilding costs are estimated at \$25 million.

The NCSML will also use



Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis (third from left), library officials and legislators unveil a sign promoting the Kosek building renovation project in Czech Village.

its I-Jobs funds to restore the historic Kosek building in Czech Village. When completed, the Kosek building will house an exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*, as well as program space, a museum store and

administrative offices. Construction is currently underway and is expected to be completed in early 2010.

President/CEO Gail Naughton explained the

(Continued on page 4)

FLOOD FORUMS TO TAKE PLACE IN WAPELLO AND MASON CITY

Two additional "Flood Forums" scheduled in August and September will provide disaster-impacted Iowans the opportunity to seek more information about recovery programs related to the 2008 disasters. They also will be

able to learn more about how to protect themselves and their property against future flooding.

The Wapello Flood Forum will be held on Aug. 26 at the Wapello Ambulance Barn, 400 Highway 61 S. The

Mason City Flood Forum will be held on Sept. 2 at the Mason City Senior Activity Center, 326 4th Street NE. Both events are scheduled from 5-8 p.m.

(Continued on page 3)

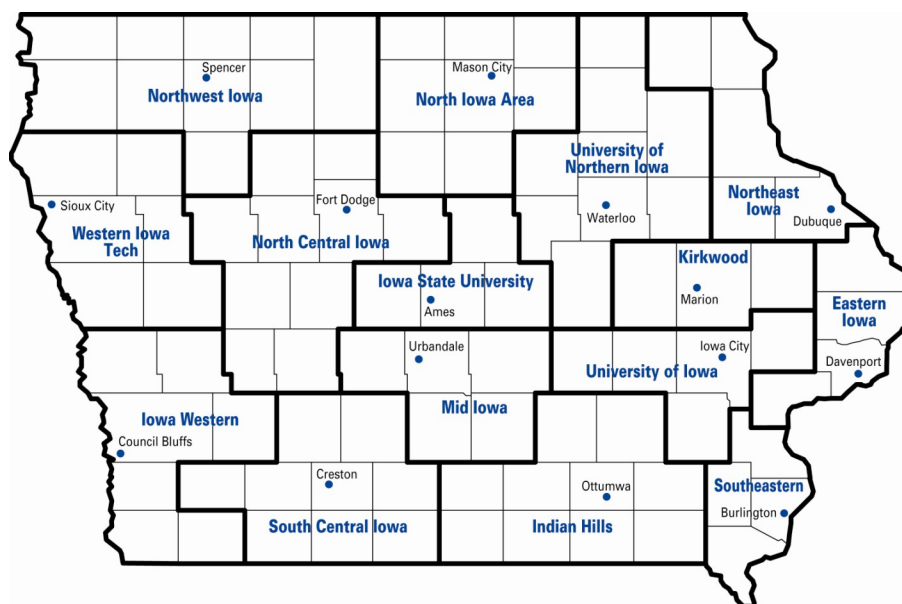
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS HELP IOWA BUSINESSES RECOVER

Many Iowa small businesses felt both the physical and economical impacts of the floods and tornadoes of 2008. To help these vital contributors to Iowa's economy recover, the Iowa Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) traveled to disaster-affected communities to offer their assistance services.

By the end of September, Iowa's SBDCs assisted over 3,000 disaster-affected businesses and individuals by offering one-on-one counseling. This counseling directed businesses to important resources and helped them resume operations.

Because SBDC resources were being exhausted due to disaster recovery services, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) increased Iowa's SBDC funding by \$458,000. This allowed SBDCs in Iowa's hardest-hit areas to continue their business counseling services without interruption.

Although the flood waters receded more than one year ago, businesses are still feeling the effects of the 2008 disasters. Many businesses that did not suffer physical damage recognize that they, too, suffered economically and are seeking help



from the SBDCs. By helping restructure SBA loans and offering developmental assistance, the SBDCs continue to help Iowa's small businesses in their recovery.

The 15 Iowa SBDCs collectively cover all 99 counties. Each SBDC offers free, confidential, customized business counseling and conducts low-cost workshops that teach practical skills and techniques to entrepreneurs. Other services are detailed below:

- Business planning and modeling
- Loan proposal assistance
- Financing options
- Market research services
- Cash flow projections
- Human resource management
- Business growth and succession strategies
- Disaster counseling

For more information, visit the Iowa SBDC Web site at www.iowasbdc.org.

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE TO PROPOSE STATEWIDE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Part of the Rebuild Iowa Office's (RIO) mission since the 2008 disasters is to look toward the future. Specifically that means building a resilient Iowa that is safe, sustainable, and economically strong. The RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team (CaRRP) is engaged in long-term planning to help realize this vision.

The CaRRP team is currently developing a proposal to set forth a statewide planning framework that includes over-arching smart growth principles, a plan of action with strategies for implementation, and a structure to support the planning process.

The proposal, titled *Recovering from the Storms, Planning for the Future: A Safer,*

Smarter, Stronger Iowa, does not focus on recovery programs. The report instead focuses on what the State can do toward policy development aimed at "rebuilding a resilient Iowa that's safe, sustainable, and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history today and

(Continued on page 4)

IOWANS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM

Funds through the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program are still available to impacted Iowans in all 78 counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance after last summer's natural disasters.

The program provides up to \$2,500 per household to help pay for losses or expenses from last year's disasters which have not yet been covered by other forms of assistance.

The grants are to be used for personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, child care, transportation and temporary housing incurred as a result of last year's disasters.

Grants are available to families with household incomes up to three times the federal poverty level and will help with needed goods and services not already

paid for with assistance from insurance, charity or other government programs. For example, a household of two must make at or below \$3,643 per month or no more than \$43,710 a year to be eligible.

Applications will be taken through June 30, 2010, or until all funds have been expended; however, officials are urging Iowans to apply as soon as possible. Individuals should apply with the Long-Term Recovery Committee representing the area in which the applicant lived at the time of the disaster.

To find the Long-Term Recovery Committee in your area, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov for a map and contact information, or call the Iowa Concern Hotline at (800) 447-1985.

FLOOD FORUM (continued from page 1)

On Aug. 12, Millhiser Smith Agency sponsored the venue for first Flood Forum in Cedar Rapids. The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) coordinated the seminar content. Due to the success of the event in Cedar Rapids, two additional Flood Forums were scheduled.

The Wapello and Mason City events will include representatives from the Rebuild Iowa Office, Iowa Finance Authority, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the National Flood Insurance Program, among others. Presentations will focus on assistance programs for flood-affected residents and businesses, flood insurance basics and an update on statewide recovery. Visitors may attend all or any portion of the information sessions.

Representatives from the insurance industry, state agencies and disaster-assistance programs will be available at booths during the events to talk with

visitors and to answer questions.

"One of the goals of the Rebuild Iowa Office is to make sure all impacted Iowans have the information they need to best recover from the 2008 disasters," said Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis. "It is my hope that people will attend these flood forums to find out about the programs available, get recovery questions answered, or get connected with knowledgeable people who can help them."

The flood forums will provide additional information to disaster-impacted Iowans and direct them to available resources in the recovery process. Individual case management services will not be available at the events which are free and open to the public.

Anyone with questions about the events may call Tina Potthoff, Communications Director with the Rebuild Iowa Office, at (515) 242-5232.

"It is my hope that people will attend these flood forums to find out about programs available, get recovery questions answered, or get connected with knowledgeable people who can help them."

*-RIO Exec. Director
Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis*

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

www.rio.iowa.gov

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE

**Wallace State Office Building
502 E. Ninth Street
Des Moines, IA 50319**

**Phone: 515.242.5004
Toll-free: 866.849.0323
E-mail: contact@rio.iowa.gov**

NCSML (continued from page 1)

necessity of constructing a new exhibition center and library. Due to insurance restrictions and concerns from other museums lending museum items, the existing building can no longer be used for exhibitions and collection storage. The NCSML board is considering other uses.

At the Aug. 5 event, Naughton reiterated the NCSML board's commitment to the Czech heritage neighborhood. Meanwhile, the NCSML is pursuing architectural solutions to flood protection for the new exhibition center and library. For example, NCSML officials are looking into building the museum and library at a higher level, then using lower levels of the new building for parking and keeping exhibitions and

collections high and dry.

After last summer's flooding, the NCSML held public sessions and small-group stakeholder meetings to help inform the board's decision on rebuilding. Three rebuilding options were considered. More than 800 survey responses were included in a full report which will be posted in late August on the museum's website, www.NCSML.org. The board is reviewing the data and comments, considering site options, and examining projected operating budgets. A determination on rebuilding options for the new exhibition center and library will be made in September.

PLANNING FRAMEWORK (continued from page 2)

tomorrow."

The proposal aims to foster a debate about a shared responsibility for developing integrated planning on a local and regional level that meets state-level standards and policy. It presents a basic framework from which to build a planning process and structure and suggests various strategies and tools for consideration.

The proposal is intended to be a comprehensive effort. The RIO invites stakeholders to contribute their views on

the most efficient policy instruments to reach this objective, as well as debate the merit of the overall concept. With the collective input gathered from stakeholders, a policy proposal could then be drafted recommending a smart growth planning process for the State of Iowa.

To read the proposal and submit your input, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov and select the "Community and Regional Recovery Planning" button on the left margin.

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926

To volunteer or make donations, contact:
Iowa Concern Hotline 800.447.1985

Disaster Unemployment Information 800.JOB.IOWA

Iowa Mortgage Help 877.622.4866 or
www.IowaMortgageHelp.com

Project Recovery Iowa crisis counseling
(call the Iowa Concerns Hotline) 800.447.1985

Iowa Other Needs Assistance 800.659.2955

Other Needs Assistance 866.434.4692